



Chris Danou's Capitol Report

Let's Celebrate Municipal Clerks this Week

In just about every large organization, group, team, business or other entity, there are people who play important roles and make contributions that help or impact many people. This is definitely the case with the role municipal clerks play and the services they provide in local government.

Municipal clerks are a vital part of local government that exists throughout our community, state, country and the world. Its office is among the oldest of public servants and is the professional link between the citizens, local governing bodies and agencies of government at other levels. They are neutral and impartial, and strive for equal service to all, including people elected to partisan office. It's perhaps fair to say that their most visible function that impacts the most people on any given day is on Election Day.

Casting a ballot on Election Day is a proud tradition in our community and state, and the fact is it wouldn't be possible without the work and efforts of the clerk and their team. About one month ago, communities across Wisconsin held referendums, as well as elections for the office of mayor, village and town boards, city councils, county boards, judgeships, school boards and partisan presidential primaries. No matter how big or small the election and no matter how high the turnout, municipal clerks once again played a very important role in our democratic process. It's a very long day for those involved and we all appreciate their efforts so we can cast our ballot.

While the Election Day experience for voters is one that is fast and easy overall, there is lots of work done behind the scenes and that day by dedicated clerks, staff and volunteers that make the day smooth and issue free when we register and cast our ballots. It's easy to become immersed in the results to see who wins or loses, but the clerk makes sure everyone's voice is heard and accounted for that day. The clerk works with many helpful people that day to insure the whole election process is smooth, fair and efficient, and that all the ballots are properly counted in a timely manner.

This week, we celebrate the 47th Annual Municipal Clerks Week, which is our chance to not only recognize our local clerks, but also have to opportunity to learn more about the important work they do. Of course their biggest days are on Election Day, but the work they do every day truly helps keep local government going.

Whether its issuing licenses and permits, retaining official documents and notices, preparing meeting packets and agendas, fulfilling open records requests or administering and overseeing Election Day operations, it's clear municipal clerks are very important to daily governmental operations. Please join me and take a moment to recognize our clerks and appreciate all the hard work they do for us on Election Day and every day!

